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Cap 2

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
BUREAU OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS
AGRICULTURAL ESTIMATES
306 U. S. Court House, Portland 5, Oregon

PROSPECTIVE PLANTINGS FOR 1948

(March 1, 1948)

Oregon's 1948 acreage of spring planted field crops is expected to exceed the 1947 acreage by about 5 per cent, according to March reports of farmers to the Crop Reporting Service. Increases in grain acreage for Oregon are expected as follows: Barley acreage is expected to increase 21 per cent; spring wheat, 18 per cent; oats, 1 per cent; and corn, 18 per cent. Washington and Idaho farmers are also planning substantial increases in acreage of barley and oats. Idaho farmers expect to increase spring wheat acreage 12 per cent while Washington farmers expect to decrease spring wheat acreage 19 per cent.

Acreage of potatoes is expected to increase 20 per cent in Oregon, 21 per cent in Washington and 8 per cent in Idaho.

A decrease in all hay acreage is expected for 1948. Indications are for a 2 per cent decrease in Oregon and a 4 per cent decrease in Washington and Idaho.

Further expansion is indicated in flax seed acreage with Oregon farmers planning an increase of 88 per cent to 15,000 acres and California farmers planning a 52 per cent increase to 190,000 acres for harvest. The acreage of dry edible peas intended in Oregon is down 20 per cent for 1948 and is expected to be down 14 per cent in Idaho and 5 per cent in Washington.

Plans for spring planting in western Oregon have been delayed because of the unsettled weather and wet soil. On the whole, spring work has progressed well in eastern Oregon to date. Prospects for summer irrigation in the southern and eastern parts of Oregon are generally less favorable than a year ago. Prospects for wheat production in the important mid-Columbia wheat counties continue unusually favorable. The acreage actually planted to spring crops in 1948 may turn out to be larger or smaller than now indicated because of weather conditions, price changes, labor supply, the agricultural programs and the effect of this report itself upon final plans to plant crops in 1948. The table which follows summarizes planting intentions in the three north-west and neighboring States:

INTENTIONS TO PLANT - OREGON AND THE NORTHWEST

		PLANTED ACREAGES			
Average 1937-46					
Acreage	Yield per			Indicated	1948 as percent
Planted	Planted	1947	1948		of 1947
(000) Acres	Unit	Thous. Acres	Thous. Acres		Per Cent
SPRING WHEAT					
Oregon	253 Bu.	21.0	225	266	118
Washington	910 "	21.2	670	543	81
Idaho	397 "	29.0	483	541	112
Total 3 States	1,560 "	-	1,378	1,350	98
CORN					
Oregon	53 "	32.4	28	33	118
Washington	27 "	41.2	15	15	100
Idaho	42 "	42.4	26	26	100
Total 3 States	122 "	-	69	74	107
Oregon	448 "	21.0	428	432	101
Washington	277 "	27.3	209	234	112
Idaho	220 "	32.8	187	202	108
Total 3 States	945 "	-	824	868	105
BARLEY					
Oregon	267 "	26.4	338	409	121
Washington	185 "	29.6	114	141	124
Idaho	293 "	32.9	322	361	112
Total 3 States	745 "	-	774	911	118
ALL HAY 1/					
Oregon	1,106 Ton	1.74	1,089	1,067	98
Washington	930 "	1.92	824	791	96
Idaho	1,160 "	2.06	1,089	1,045	96
Total 3 States	3,196 "	-	3,002	2,903	97
FLAX SEED					
Oregon	3 Bu.	10.0 3/	8	15	188
Idaho	3 "	8.7 3/	3	1	33
Montana	199 "	5.2	188	109	58
Washington	3 "	10.3 3/	4	4	100
California	147 "	16.4	125	190	152
Total 5 States	355 "	-	328	319	97
BEANS DRY EDIBLE 2/					
Oregon	4/ Lbs.	-	4/	4/	-
Washington	3 "	1082	4	4	100
Idaho	129 "	1502	159	135	85
Total 3 States	132 "	-	163	139	85
PEAS DRY EDIBLE 2/					
Oregon	22 Lbs.	1308	25	20	80
Washington	216 "	1178	256	243	95
Idaho	127 "	1150	153	132	86
Total 3 States	365 "	-	434	395	91
POTATOES					
Oregon	42 Bu.	218	40	48	120
Washington	39 "	212	34	41	121
Idaho	154 "	227	131	141	108
Total 3 States	235 "	-	205	230	112

- 1/ Acreage harvested.
- 2/ Includes acreage grown for seed.
- 3/ Short time average
- 4/ Less than 1000 acres

(Continued on Page 2)

UNITED STATES: Farmers expect to plant a larger total acreage of principal crops than in any of the past 3 seasons, if spring weather permits. Up to mid-March, spring had been slow to arrive and winter had held on in much of the country, delaying preparatory work, particularly in the South. Growers plan to increase the total acreage of feed grains over those they were able to plant last year, to relieve the current feed shortage. Spring plantings of food grains will be relatively large, but not up to 1947 totals. Acreages of oilseeds may be smaller, for though more flax is planned, there will be less soybean and peanut acreage. Potatoes will be planted on a slightly larger acreage, but there will be less acreage in beans, peas, sugarbeets and tobacco. To permit increases elsewhere, hay meadows and pastures may be reduced and idle land put back into crops. Soil moisture supplies are adequate in practically all areas, except the far Southwest and California. Supplies of fertilizer and new machinery are improved and are not likely to be limiting factors in spring plantings.

The total acreage of principal crops planted or grown in 1948 may exceed 361 million acres, allowing for duplications and for certain crops not yet surveyed. This exceeds by 3.2 million acres or nearly 1 per cent the 1947 total of almost 358 million acres. With the exception of the wartime peaks in 1943 and 1944, this total is the largest since 1937. The largest acreage planted or grown was 375-1/2 million acres in 1932.

Feed grains will be grown on about 5.1 million acres more than in 1947, if present plans materialize, an increase of over 3 percent. The number of grain-consuming animal units on January 1, 1948 was nearly 4 per cent less than a year before, but carryover stocks from 1947 crops of feed grains are expected to be relatively small.

The acreage devoted to food grains is likely to exceed that of last season by a very slight margin. To a record winter wheat acreage may be added a spring wheat acreage only slightly smaller than in 1947, to give a current planted acreage of all wheat a half-million acres more than last year. Rye acreage also is larger than last year, while rice acreage is expected to be only 1 per cent smaller. Winter wheat may have suffered some setback from the severe cold and storms of March 10-13 in the Great Plains area, but little actual loss of acreage is expected to result. Total abandonment of winter wheat, however, is expected to be much larger than in the past two seasons.

The chief problem producers face in carrying out their plans is the weather. The severe weather of March 10-13 over a large part of the country left an additional blanket of snow to delay the time when fields can thaw out and dry out enough to be worked.

INTENTIONS TO PLANT: UNITED STATES				
C R O P	P L A N T E D A C R E A G E S			
	Average	1947	Indicated	1948 as
	1937-46	Thousands	1948	pct. of 1947
Corn, all.....	91,696	86,168	86,131	100.0
All spring wheat.....	18,612	19,879	19,789	99.5
Durum.....	2,701	2,952	3,092	104.7
Other spring.....	15,911	16,927	16,697	98.6
Oats.....	42,130	42,501	45,709	107.5
Barley.....	14,632	12,030	12,660	105.2
Flaxseed.....	3,189	4,157	4,401	105.9
Rice.....	1,319	1,687	1,666	98.8
Sorghums for all purposes.....	16,936	11,700	12,983	111.0
Potatoes.....	2,897	2,147	2,162	100.7
Sweetpotatoes.....	733	618	560	90.7
Tobacco 1/.....	1,644	1,875	1,528	81.5
Beans, dry edible.....	2,008	1,839	1,811	98.5
Peas, dry field.....	460	551	470	85.3
Soybeans 2/.....	10,944	12,894	11,659	90.4
Cowpeas 2/.....	2,710	1,143	1,039	90.9
Peanuts 2/.....	3,254	4,156	3,988	96.0
Hay 1/.....	73,018	75,291	74,215	98.6
Sugar beets.....	854	966	902	93.4
1/ Acreage harvested. 2/ Grown alone for all purposes. Partly duplicated in hay acreage.				

Released: Portland, Oregon
March 23, 1948

Charles F. Leatherman
William J. Fluke
Agricultural Statisticians

Herman A. Swedlund
Agricultural Statistician
Acting in Charge

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